

MARKET MOVEMENT

Major Indices	January 20, 2017	January 27, 2017	% Change	Change
BSE Sensex	27,034.50	27,882.46	3.13	
NSE Nifty	8,349.35	8,641.25	3.49	

INDIAN ECONOMY AT A GLANCE**POLICY WATCH**

- **Indian Industries Association partners with Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau**
- **Cabinet approves MOUs with United Arab Emirates**
- **Amendment to Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme approved**
- **Cabinet approves MoU between India and Vietnam in the field of cyber security**
- **Government raises USD 4.4 billion via disinvestment proceeds**

Indian Industries Association partners with Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau

The Indian Industries Association (IIA) has joined hands with the Thailand Convention & Exhibition Bureau (TCEB). The two organisations will promote business ties and trade growth between industries and MSMEs of India and Thailand. The Connect Business campaign of TCEB IIA will organise Trade Missions of Indian MSMEs and IIA members for international trade exhibition festival in Thailand. The Trade Mission will consist of a minimum of 10 delegates. TCEB will compensate Indian Industries Association under this campaign through an incentive.

Cabinet Approves MOUs with United Arab Emirates

The Union Cabinet has approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Arab Emirates for cooperation in the field of Small and Medium Enterprises and Innovation. The MoU would benefit Indian SMEs and lead to equitable and inclusive development. The Indian SMEs will gain exposure to best practices in SME sector abroad and will also have the opportunity of mutually beneficial relations with the SME sector of the United Arab Emirates and to explore their markets.

Amendment to Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme approved

The amendment to the Modified Special Incentive Package Scheme to further incentivize investments in Electronic Sector and moving towards the goal of 'Net Zero imports' in electronics by 2020 has been

approved. The Policy covers all states and districts and provides them an opportunity to attract investments in electronics manufacturing. So far, 243 applications have been received under the scheme, out of which 75 applications have been approved involving investment proposals of USD 2.6 billion.

Cabinet approves MoU between India and Vietnam in the field of cyber security

The Union Cabinet has given ex-post facto approval to the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and Vietnam in the field of Cyber Security. It was signed between Indian Computer Emergency Response Team, India and the Cyber Security Department, Ministry of Public Security, Vietnam. The MoU intends to promote closer cooperation for exchange of knowledge and experience in detection, resolution and prevention of cyber security-related incidents between India and Vietnam.

Government raises USD 4.4 billion via disinvestment proceeds

The government has raised approximately USD 4.4 billion from disinvestment proceeds. This is the highest amount grossed through the stake sale programme. In this fiscal, the government has budgeted around USD 8.3 billion from disinvestment proceeds, of which USD 3 billion was to come through strategic sales.

INDUSTRY WATCH

- **India's smartphone user base crosses 300 million in 2016**
- **Mega solar project in Madhya Pradesh attracts global investors**
- **Prices of essential medicines cut by 30-50 per cent**
- **BSE IPO gets subscribed over 51 times**
- **Multifold increase in digital transactions made through UPI/USSD modes**

India's smartphone user base crosses 300 million in 2016

India's smartphone user base crossed 300 million in 2016 with the market growing by 18 per cent. This growth was led by Chinese brands such as Vivo, Oppo, Lenovo and Xiaomi. This is as compared to the global smartphone market which grew by a modest 3 per cent. The Chinese brands contributed to 46% of the total smartphone market with no Indian brand figuring amongst the top 5 smartphone brands for the first time ever. An estimated 83 million smartphones in 2016 were made in India and three out of four were manufactured domestically in the last quarter.

Mega solar project in Madhya Pradesh attracts global investors

The world's largest solar power plant that is coming up in Madhya Pradesh, has caught the interest of clean energy companies from around the world. Twenty leading firms, including Italy's Enel Green Power SpA,

SoftBank-promoted SBG Cleantech Ltd, Canadian Solar Energy Holding, Singapore3 Pte Ltd and Green Infra Wind Power Project Ltd, promoted by Sembcorp Industries Ltd, have expressed interest. The 20 firms will bid for three units of 250 megawatts (MW) each that make up the project in the second round of auctions.

Prices of essential medicines cut by 30-50 per cent

Drug price regulator National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) has slashed the prices of around 33 essential medicines. It has brought down their retail prices by 30-50 per cent. The move aims at reducing the prices of commonly used drugs for critical diseases by expanding the span of price regulation to cover new drugs.

BSE IPO gets subscribed over 51 times

The first IPO by a stock exchange in India witnessed overwhelming investor interest and was subscribed more than 51 times. Existing shareholders of BSE offered about 15.4 million shares of the exchange, which is the oldest one in Asia, at a price band of USD 12-13, aggregating USD 183 million. The High Networth Individuals (HNI) portion in the offer was subscribed 159 times, institutional part 49 times and the retail part 6.2 times, with more than 1 million applicants bidding in the offer.

Multifold increase in digital transactions made through UPI/USSD modes

The number of digital financial transactions made through Unified Payments Interface (UPI) and Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) mode has grown exponentially by 3,574 per cent and 1,060 per cent respectively. Currently about 74 crore debit and credit cards are being used, while about half a billion population is using internet. There are 1020 million mobile phones, 1100 million Aadhar and more than 200 million Jan-Dhan accounts in the country.

CORPORATE HIGHLIGHTS

- **Aavishkaar-Intellectap Group raises USD 25 million**
- **Tata Steel, Creative Port ink deal for stake in Odisha port**
- **GroupM acquires majority stake in MediaCom India**
- **Ortel to invest USD 44 million to spruce up infrastructure**
- **Cuemath raises USD 15 million in Series B round from Alphabet**

Aavishkaar-Intellectap Group raises USD 25 million

The Aavishkaar-Intellectap Group, has raised USD 25 million, led by Triodos Investment Management, the investment arm of European lender Triodos Bank, and Shell Foundation, an independent charity

established by the Shell Group. Triodos has invested USD 15 million while Shell has contributed USD 10 million in this equity round. The investment will be infused in the parent company and will enable the group to consolidate and expand its bouquet of ecosystem building initiatives/businesses across the globe.

Tata Steel, Creative Port ink deal for stake in Odisha port

Tata Steel has executed a definitive agreement with Chennai-based Creative Port Development (CPDPL) and their promoters for the proposed development of Subarnarekha Port (SPPL) at Chaumukh village in Odisha's Balasore district. Tata Steel will acquire majority equity stake in CPDPL, and the port development is envisaged through a wholly-owned subsidiary, SPPL. It has executed the share purchase agreement to acquire 51 per cent equity shares of CPDPL. The current outlay for the acquisition is estimated at USD 178 million.

GroupM acquires majority stake in MediaCom India

WPP-owned media investment management arm, GroupM has acquired a majority stake in the media agency MediaCom India, a joint venture between GroupM India and Sam Balsara, the principal shareholder of the Madison Media group. MediaCom India will continue to operate as an independent brand.

Ortel to invest USD 44 million to spruce up infrastructure

Ortel Communications, Odisha's largest multi-system operator (MSO) that provides cable TV and high-speed broadband services, will invest USD 44 million in the next two years on expansion. The company would use IPO proceeds, debt and internal accrual and equity to meet its funding requirements.

Cuemath raises USD 15 million in Series B round from Alphabet

Education start-up Cuemath, run by Cuelearn Pvt. Ltd, has raised USD 15 million in Series B round of funding led by equity investment fund of Alphabet Inc., CapitalG (formerly known as Google Capital). The company will use the funds for business expansion and product development. Previously, the company had raised USD 4 million from Sequoia India and Unitus Seed Fund in June 2016.